

It is my belief that proposal RM-10868 is the most sensible plan for the future of the amateur radio service. It proposes, justifiably, that although current international telecommunications treaty allows for countries to individually decide on whether to keep Morse code testing requirements, that the United States is in a unique position of maintaining national security and recovering from disasterous events in the current global climate.

If Morse code testing is not retained in the higher license classes (General and Amateur Extra), then the consequences of such a relaxation of requirements may potentially increase the vulnerability of our amateur emergency communications infrastructure when future licensees cannot operate low-powered (QRP) transmissions using Morse code. Some may argue that there are alternate digital modes that work just as affectively, but I would argue that they wouldn't be as effective if they rely on devices (such as PCs) that require greater amounts of power than simpler, more power-efficient CW transmitters.

5 WPM already gives a lot more leeway to amateur radio operators to more easily learn the code, and I tend to agree with some fellow hams that it is too slow a requirement for the Amateur Extra license. However, I believe that maintaining the current requirements would better serve the Commission and licensees.

I strongly urge the Commission to seriously consider proposal RM-10868.